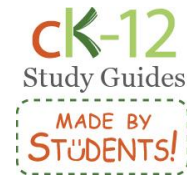


Geological Time Scale



EON	ERA	PERIOD	EPOCH		
Phanerozoic	Cenozoic	Quaternary	Holocene		
			Pleistocene	Late	
				Early	
		Tertiary	Neogene	Pliocene	
				Miocene	Late
					Early
			Paleogene	Oligocene	
				Eocene	Late
					Middle
		Paleocene	Early	Late	
				Early	
			Mesozoic	Cretaceous	Late
		Early			
		Jurassic		Late	
				Middle	
	Triassic	Early			
		Permian		Late	
	Early				
	Paleozoic	Carboniferous		Pennsylvanian	
				Mississippian	Late
			Early		
		Devonian	Late		
			Middle		
		Silurian	Early		
			Ordovician	Late	
		Early			
		Cambrian	Middle		
			Early		
	D				
	Precambrian	Proterozoic	Late		
Middle					
Early					
Archean		Late			
		Middle			
		Early			

Study Tip

To remember the organization of the geologic time scale, use this mnemonic device: **Every Elephant Plays Energetically** (Eon Era Period Epoch)

Main Idea

Scientists created the geologic time scale based on fossil evidence. It divides Earth's history into blocks of time with each block separated by important events, such as the disappearance of a species of fossil from the rock record.

Organization

In the geologic time scale, the youngest ages are on the top and the oldest on the bottom.

The time scale is based upon relative times, therefore there aren't any specific times listed with each era. The timescale is divided into eons, each eon into eras, each era into periods, and each period into epochs.

Concept Check

- What evidence was used to build the geologic time scale?
- What is the difference between relative time and absolute time?
- How is the geologic time scale divided?

